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1948

Firka Development (1948) Department

M SERIES.

G.O. No. 248.

Dated 1-5 1948

[Despatch Abstract.]

RURAL RECONSTRUCTION : INTENSIVE WORK IN SELECTED FIRKAS AND CENTRES : BUDGET DEMAND FOR GRANTS : 1948-49 : NOTES : PAPERS : RECORDED.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

BUDGET - Demand for Grants - 1948-49 - Notes.

Under para 1 of Finance (B.G.) U.O. Note No.7430-(A)-BG/48.2 dated 23-1-1948, in the case of composite demands, the departments should take the orders of the Ministers other than the Minister who will move the demand as to whether a note should be prepared in respect of the items relating to them included in the same demand. If such notes are prepared the departments concerned should send copies also to the Minister who will move the demand. Though the grant under "Demand XI" will be moved by H.M. (L.R.) the following items in that demand are under certain other Ministers:

Items.	H.M.concerned	Department.
(1) 25.S.Gnl.Administration - Dt.Admn & Misc.Gl.Estt - E.Post War Reconstruction- (i) Estimates of the Public (R.S.) Department.) " (ii)Estimates of the) Director of Rese-) ttelement and) Employment.) "(iii)Estimates of the) Board of Revenue.)	H.M.(FOOD)	Public
(2) 25.W.Gnl.Admn. Dt.Administration & Misc. Other Estt- F.Est. for stamping weights and measures.	H.M.(Agri)	Development.
(3) 25.W.Gnl.Admn - Mis. A. Provincial Broadcasting	" (P.W.)	P.W.Deptt.
C. Rural Recreation Scheme	" (R.D) & (Prohn)	Development and Revenue.
Allowance to I.A.S. probationers.	Premier	Public.
A (P.W.R. Expenditure from the Fund (for Village Reconstruction and (Harijan Uplift.	-do-	Public (F.D.) Department.
Acquisition of sites for village housing schemes.	H.M.(Pro)	Development.
Excluded and Partially excluded areas.	H.M.(Fin)	Public

The Deptts. may be requested to take necessary action on the above items.

V.N.R/5.3.48

FIRKA DEV. DEPTT.

Please see Rev. u.o. note on p. 1 (ante). This Deptt. are concerned with portion marked "A" on p. 1 ante. It has already been ordered in circulation that a note may be prepared as and when cut motions are received. However, a copy of the note prepared about Village Reconstruction in connection with a cut motion against a demand to be moved by the H.Pr. together with an exhaustive note on Village Reconstruction, Khadi and Cottage Industries as also the paper on the work done by the Firka Dev. Staff in the mofussil may perhaps be circulated to H.M.(Rev).

xx/7.3
Dy.Secy.

K(ala) V(enkata) R(ao)/21.4
H.M.(Rev.)

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Notes and orders in circulation above. No further action. The papers may be recoreded as a G.O. (Ms).

xx/30.4

G.O. (Ms) No. 248 dated the 1st May 1948

Abstract

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RURAL RECONSTRUCTION - Intensive Work in selected firkas and centres - Budget Demand for grants - 1948-49 - Notes - Papers- Recorded.

/True copy/

Office Assistant,

Sk.

Madras Record Office, Egmore.

NOTE ON INTENSIVE RURAL RECONSTRUCTION WORK IN SELECTED FIRKAS AND CENTRES.

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Original Copy

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The Collector of the District has been placed in direct charge and is preimarily responsible for the successful working of the Rural Reconstruction Scheme in his District. Each selected firka i in charge of a Firka Development Officer of the rank of the Deputy Tahsildar and under him there are Village Development Officers of the rank of Revenue Inspectors, one for each of the 4 of 5 groups into which each firka or centre has been divided. The necessary subordinate staff have also been provided for.

The Provincial Firka Development Officer of the status of the Head of Department has been appointed to be in direct charge of the Government Scheme of Rural Reconstruction and Khadi and Cottage Industries in the selected areas. He is responsible for the proper execution of the Scheme. The Provincial Firka Development Officer is at present assisted by the Regional Firka Development Officer in the executive side of things. The Regional Firka Development Officer in in charge of the Northern Districts of the Presidency.

It may be relevant to indicate briefly the nautre of work undertaken by the Government. Complete co-ordinated plans, in pursuance of exhaustive questionnaire prepared in this regard, have been or are being prepared in respect of each selected firka or centre, detailing the various needs of each village in the s elected firkas. The Government are considering the question of taking up the various improvements suggested in the co-ordinated plans. Meanwhile improvements under communications, rural water supply, etc., have been taken up for immediate execution as they are the immediate and urgent needs of the villagers. With a view to improve the lot of the villagers the Government have sanctioned sums of Rs. 50,000 for each firka or centre for making improvements, under Rural Water Supply and Communications. To avoid the necessity of going up to Government Government even in respect of minor items of work, a block grant of Rs. 10,000 in respect of each firka or centre has been placed at the disposal of each Collector to meet urgent but minor items of work such as widening or improving of small foot-paths, constructions of small culverts, closing or opening of small channel, e tc. Another annual lump sum grant of Rs. 10,000 in respect of all the firkas and centres has been placed at the disposal of the Provinci... Firka Development Officer for similar purposes. Prohibition has been extended to the Firkas selected for Rural Reconstruction. All toddy, arrack, opium shops have been ordered to be closed.

The supply of electric power to the selected areas is receiving high priorty. Government have also undertaken to subsidize the deficits arising out of the unremunerative electrification schemes in certain firkas and centres. The probable annual deficit likely to be subsidized from out of the funds for Village Reconstruction and Harijan Uplift will be to the tune of Rs. 2 lakhs. Improvements under the heads Veterinary, Irrigation, Medical, Multipurpose Co-operative Societies, Education, Library, etc., are all undertaken or contemplated.

A Provincial Firka Development Board to formulate and f rame schemes of Rural Reconstruction has been constituted. The majority of the members of the Board are composed of eminent non-official gentlemen, greatly devoted to rural reconstruction work in their own way. It is under their expert advice that it is proposed to guide rural reconstruction activities in the Province. This Board first met on 19th October 1947. The Sub Committee experts appointed by the Board comprising among others Dr. J.C. Kumarappa and Sri G. Ramachandran has drawn up an overall plan of Rural Reconstruction,

the object of which is to ortanise the villagers for a happer, more propserous and fuller life in which the individual villager will have the opportunity to develop both as an individual and as a unit of a well-integrated Society.

A Firka Development Committee has also been constituted in each of the firkas and centres selected for intensive rural reconstruction work. In its composition provision has been made for membership of one local M.L.A or M.L.C and two Prominent constructive workers, preferably one from the firka and the other from the District concerned. This is with a view to associating the people of the locality with the plans evolved or to be evolved for their regeneration and particularly making them feel that the plans are their plans so that it will ultimately be a success.

Government have constituted a special fund and have transferred a sum of Rs. 4 crores from the Revenue Account. Out of this Rs. 4 crores, one crore is intended for Harijan Uplift and the remaining three crores are intended for generalschemes of Rural Reconstruction including the Scheme of Khadi Production. Th intention is to draw the sums of money necessary for implementing the scheme as and when they are ready and to make available the unspent balance, if any, for expenditure in future years.

The struggle for the improvement of the villagers has after all just begun. It has to be realised that a brief of a year or so is all too short to bring about a millenium in the field of Rural Reconstruction. What best can be done in t he matter has been done and the Government are confident that ere long with the co-opearation, enthusiasm and aptitude of the public, they will be able to show tangible results in the matter.

A paper on the work done by the Firka Development staff in the mofussil of their own accord has been laid on the table of the Madras Legislature. A copy of the same is put up at glaf "M". A copy of the note on Villate Reconstruction, Cottage Industries and Khadi prepared in certain other connection is also put up.

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A NOTE ON RURAL RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME IN SELECTED FIRKAS AND CENTRES.

Prior to the launching of the Rural Reconstruction Scheme in the selected firkas and centres, the Government had had under consideration the question of Rural Development in this Province. Various measures had been taken from time to time for the improvement of Rural Conditions but as the efforts had been restricted in scope and lacked proper co-ordination the results were neither tangible nor enduring. The Government were convinced especially in view of the difficult food situation that food production and village reconstruction were the two pressing problems which required immediate attention.

In pursuance of this policy to improve Rural conditions the Government have selected 34 firkas and centres in the Presidency to carry on their intensive Rural Reconstruction Work. A list of the 34 firkas and centres selected for intensive Rural Reconstruction Work is put up in Annexure I. To start with, it is the intention of the Government to make each selected firka and centre self-sufficient in the matter of food and clothing and other necessitiese of life. It has also been decided to revive or develop, as the case may be, and pay special attention to the improvement of village industries essential for the life of village communities. The selection of the firkas was based on considerations of general backwardness of the firka in regard to communications, sanitation, lighting, water-supply, etc., presence of electric installations in or within easy reach of the firka; presence of favourable conditions for intensifying the production of handloom cloth and for the development of other cottage industries, etc., etc.

The Collector of the district has been placed in direct charge and is primarily responsible for the successful working of the Rural Reconstruction in his district. Each selected firka is in charge of a F Firka Development Officer of the rank of a Deputy Tahsildar and under him there are Village Development Officer of the rank of a Revenue Inspector one for each of the four or five groups of villages into which each selected firka has been divided. The necessary subordinatee staff has also been provided for.

The Provincial Firka Development Officer of the status of the Head of a Department has been appointed to be in direct charge of the Government's scheme of Rural Reconstruction and Khadi and Cottage Industries in the selected areas. He is responsible for the proper execution of the scheme. The Provincial Firka Development Officer is at present assisted by a Regional Firka Development Officer (North) in the executive side of things. The Regional Firka Development Officer is in charge of the northern districts of the Presidency.

An exhaustive Questionnaire (Annexure II) has been prepared for taking a survey of the villages and their needs in the selected areas. In the lines indicated in the questionnaire complete co-ordinated plans for the development of firkas have been prepared by the authorities in respect of 25 firkas and centres. The question of taking up the various improvements suggested in the co-ordinated plans is separately under consideration. Meanwhile, Government have given first preference to certain improvements like electrification schemes, Rural water-supply, communications, etc. The supply of electric power to the selected areas is receiving high priority. The Government have also undertaken to subsidise the deficits arising out of unremunerative electrification schemes of certain firkas and centres. The probable annual deficits likely to be dubsisided from out of the funds of the Village Reconstruction and Harijan Uplift will be to the tune of 2 lakhs. Remunerative Electrification schemes costing over 11 lakhs of rupees have been sanctioned upto the middle of October 1947. Uptodate particulars are awaited from the Electricity Department. Unremunerative electrification schemes costing about Rs. 2,20,000 have also been so far sanctioned. Several more schemes are under scrutinty. Attemps at improving the existing irrigational facilities are also being made.

Necessary instructions in respect of measures necessary for cattle improvement and breeding facilities in the areas selected for intensive Rural Reconstruction work have been issued by the Director of Veterinary Services to the District Veterinary Officers.

Sanction has been accorded for the opening of an Ayurvedic Veterinary Dispensary during the current year in the Dendulur Firka (West Godavari District) at a cost not exceeding Rs. 1,200. The dispensary has been opened at Jogannapalem from 1st January 1948.

The Government are also considering the question of opening multi-purpose Co-operative Societies in some atleast of the firkas centres selected for intensive rural Reconstruction work. The intention is that after watching the success of the scheme it should be gradually extended to other areas. The proposed societies will dispense credit, assist the villagers in the marketing of agricultural produce, purchase of the necessaries of life including agricultural requisities and supply of raw materials to village artizans and craftsmen. They will help them in the marketing of their wares, take active part in agricultural and industrial (Cottage and Subsidi.., development and improve social life and habits by checking extravagance and promoting habits of thrift, etc.

It has also been proposed to have a depot at the headquarters of each of the firkas and centres where the requirements of the villagers like agricultural impelements, tools, seeds, manure, yarn, etc. will be stored for distribution to the villagers. These depots are to be housed in M.B. sheds or Lahore sheds or Twin Nissen huts. In the following firkas the erection of these sheds has been completed:

(1) Palladam (Coimbatore Dt) (2) Tiruvellore (Chingleput Dt.)
(3) Tirumangalam (Madura Dt) (4) Malli (Ramnad district)
(5) Musiri (Trichinopoly Dt) (6) Shermadevi (Tinnevelly District)
(7) Saliamangalam (Tanjore) (8) Hindupur (Anantapur District)

In order to cater to the needs of school children and literate adults, the Government have sanctioned the opening of Central Libraries in 25 selected firkas with branch libraries in each of the villages of the Firkas.

With a view to improve the lot of the villagers the Government have sanctioned sums of Rs. 50,000 for each firka or centre for making improvements, under Rural Water supply and communications. To avoid the necessity of going up to Government even in respect of each minor items of work a block grant of Rs. 10,000 in respect of each firka or centre has been placed at the disposal of each Collector to meet urgent but minor items of work such as widening or improving of small foot-paths, construction of small culverts, closing or opening of small channel, etc. Another annual lump sum grant of Rs. 10,000 in respect of all the firkas and centres has been placed at the disposal of the Provincial Firka Development Officer for similar purposes.

Prohibition has been extended to the Firkas selected for Rural Reconstruction. All toddy, arrack, opium shops have been ordered to be closed.

A summary of the work done by the Firka Development Staff of their own initiative is put at flag Y.

A Provincial Firka Development Board to formulate and frame schemes of Rural Reconstruction has been constituted. The Board comprises of officials and non-officials. This Board first met on 19th October 1947. The sub-committee of experts appointed by the Board comprising, among others Dr. J.C. Kumarappa and Sri G. Ramachandran, has drawn up an overall plan of Rural Reconstruction, the object of which is to organise the villagers for a happier more propserous and fuller life in which the individual villager will have the opportunity to develop both as an individual and as a unit of a well integrated society. The general scheme for Firka Development Work has been divided into four parts, namely, (1) General Plan of work (ii) Scheme for training of workers (iii) Supervision and Inspection (iv) Concluding observation and certain suggestion. The report of the sub-committee is put at "A". The implementation of this plan is separately under the consideration of the Government.

Firka Development Committees to implement the scheme of Rural Reconstruction Scheme have also been constituted in each firka or Centre.

The Government have constituted a special fund and have transferred a sum of Rs. 4 crores from the Revenue Account. Of this sum of Rs. 4 crores, one crore is intended to Harijan Uplift and the remining three crores are intended for general schemes of Rural Reconstruction including the Scheme of Khadri Production. The intention is to draw the sums of money necessary for implementing the scheme as and when they are ready and to make available the unspent balance , if any, for expenditure in future years. The total expenditure incurred in respect of Rural Reconstruction Scheme upto the end of January 1948 from the beginning of the scheme is Rs. 6,10,204/15/3.

Originally the idea of Government was that complete coordinated plans of development should be drawn up in respect of each firka or centre detailing the various needs of improvement called for in each firka or centre. But the Government have now decided that improvements under "Communications" "Rural Water Supply" should be taken up immediately as they are the immediate and urgent neeeds. The Collectors have, however, been requested to furnish urgently wherever necessary estimates of cost involved in respect of schemes of improvements such as Education, Public Health, Medical, Veterinary, etc., other than those already sanctioned by Government. When complete proposals are received from them an estimate is proposed to be prepared and detailed particulars incorporated in the budget to be prepared in this regard.

The intensige Rural Reconstruction Scheme has generally been approved by the Government of India and will be eligible for financial assistance from the Central grants.

NOTE ON COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

In the middle of December the Government sanctioned a scheme for the development of Cottage and Village Industries in the 25 firkas, then selected for the intensive Rural Reconstruction Scheme. The salient features of the Scheme consisted in the opneing of demonstration and training units, reorganising industrial and Commercial Museums and providing financial assistance to Cottage Industrialists.

It was decided that Thirtytwo industries should be taken on hand for development, the items to be worked in each of the firkas having been specified in the Annexure to the G.O. It was proposed to open demonstration and training units, about 200 in number, in respect of these thirty two Cottage Industries to train local workers in up-to-date methods of manufacture on a cottage industry basis. The staff necessary to carry out these schemes was also sanctioned. The Director of Industries and Commerce was also empowered to incur expenditure on the provision of midday meals to the trainees. By way of affording a further inducement to join the training course and to enable the trainees to put their heart in the course and turn out articles of good quality and finish, the scheme permitted the distribution of 25 per cent of the recoveries effected by the sale of articles produced in the units to the trainees. As a follow up programme provision was made for the grant of loans, subsidy and scholarships to the trainees after the completion of the training. The scheme involved a non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 14,56,580 and a recurring expenditure of Rs. 29,75,000 but if the expected total receipts from the sale of articles, the grant of bonus and the provision for the follow up programme were taken into account the net recurring expenditure was estimated to come to Rs. 23,59,000, this to give training to as many as 3,900 candidates.

By about April 1947, 114 technical personnel (instructors and demonstrators) 10 supervisors and two pottery Development Officers were recruited for organising the training units. These people were given training for two weeks in the different technical institutions of the department of Industries notably the Central Polytechnic, the School of Arts and Crafts (Ceramic section), Institute of Leather Technology, Government Textile Institute, etc. On the completion of the training they were attached to the various District Industries Officers and Assistant Industrial Engineers for the preliminary

work connected with the establishment of training units. Forty-three demonstration and training units in different cottage Industries, Pottery (9 units) , Blacksmithy (13 units) Woodwork (9 units), Tanning and Leather Goods manufacture (3 units) Boat-building (One unit); Rattan and Bamboo work (2 units) Light Metal Casting (3 units) Sheet metal work (1 unit).handmade paper (one unit) and Toys and Lacquer Work (one unit) are functioning at present in different parts of the Province. It may also be mentioned that training was imparted in fish farming in the Musiri Firka of the Trichy District. As a result of the training given in boat-building at Calingapatnam in the Gunna Firka, Vizagapatam district, thirteen boats were constructed and have been launched. The handmade paper unit at Tiruvengimalai in Musiri Firka manufactured about 12 reams of paper of good quality. The wood work unit at Kalasapakam (North Arcot District) has manufactured and supplied furniture required for three units such as work benches, stool boxes, while a that at Tirumanaglam Firka has manufactured tables, stools and benches for sale to Government offices. Blacksmithy units at Nagari and Sermadevi have manufactured articles of domestic utility. Leather goods manufacruring units at Kurnool and Bezwada are producing chappals, money purses hand bags, cushions and spectable cases. The pottery Units at Shermadevi and Kurnool are turning out useful articles and it is reported that the Kurnool unit has worn a prize in the Rural Reconsruction . The Director of Industries and Commerce has made arrangements for the manufacture of most of the agricultural implements in the blacksmithy unit at Tirumangalam by employing additional labour in the unit. It is expected that by enlarging the activities of the ~~back~~ Blacksmithy unit in this way the whole unit may be made ultimately self-supporting. If this experiment proves a success, the activities of the various blacksmithy units located in other firkas will also be extended in that line. Quotations for the supply of toos and equipment required for the training units were obtained from local firms and orders to the value of over Rs. 2.5 lakhs were placed. Deliveries of materials to the value of about Rs. 1.32.122 have been effected upto end of January 1948,

Upto end of December 1947 (figures for January 1948) are not yet available) an expenditure of Rs. 2,02.300 has been incurred on the running of the demonstration units.

The details of the expenditure incurred upto the end of 1947 under the budget heads are furnished below:

Pay of Officers.	Rs.	2,130. 0. 0
Pay of Establishment.		32,670. 6. 0
Travelling Allowance.		2,015.15. 0
Dearness allowance and cost of living allowance.		11,061. 4. 0
Petty construction and repairs.		268. 8. 0
Equipment and Tools.		1,20,930. 4. 6
Raw materials.		10,141. 3. 6
Stipends.		7,323.11.10
Other contingencies.		15,757.12. 5
	Rs	2,02,299. 1. 3 or
	Rs.	2,02,300. 0. 0

* Wages	1 794.14.0
Rent.	1 373.13. 0
Dearness allowance to Menials.	549. 0.0
Canteens.	5,374.11.6
Miscellaneous.	6,665.5. 11
	15,757.12.5

The Director of Industries and Commerce (Mr. Raju), however, reported to the Government in July 1947, that the whole scheme was too ambitious that neither the pace of recruitment of the technical staff nor the availability of the candidates willing to undergo training in the units justified the hopes entertained at the first in regard to the scheme. Further it is reported that many of the Cottage Industries selected have no local roots and

and that the stipend system has fallen flat on the villagers. In the face face of the many difficulties experienced, the Director of Industri s and Commerce submitted a revised scheme aiming the development of six basic Cottage Industries only, namely, Blacksmithy, wood work, pottery, tanning and leather goods manufacture, sheet metal work and light metal casting. The Director of Industries and Commerce terminated the services of the Industructors etc., who could not be easily employed in the original scheme in the near future. Theneed for the supervisory and other staff was reviewed recently and further retrenc ment has also been effected. The present Director of Industries and Commerce has been directed by the Hon'ble Premier, to tour the firkas and other important places and then formulate porposals, to put both the large scale and small industries on a firm footing. The Director of Industries and Commerce has promised to submit a more practicable scheme and its receipt is awaited.

The progress reported above will,however, show that the s cheme originally laid down is being impelemented wherever possible.

NOTE ON KHADI S CHEME.

The scheme for the development of Khadi as an integral part of the comprehensive plan of the Government to make villages in the Province as far as possible s elf-sufficient working units, was approved by Government in G.O. (Ms) No. 4678 Dev, dated 23-12-1946. The scheme itself consists of two parts, namely, Intensive and Extensive. It is the intensive part that aims to achieve the ideal of s elf-sufficiency in clothing in terms of Khadi and is being experimented in sevel compact places known as centres, namely, Avanashi, Vellakoil, Pulliankurichi in Taminad, Kotauratla, Guravareddipalem, Yerragundapalaam in Andhra area and Payyanur in West coast., where the A.I.S.A. had already done substantial work for the development of Khadi. The centres have been taken as going concerns from the A.I.S.A. and the s cheme is impelemented with the assistance and technical advice of the A.I.S.A. The Centres are entirely manned by trained workers of A.I.S.A. The salient features of the scheme may be described as follows:

(a) Every family in the centre is to be induced to equip itself with at least one Charka and contribute at least one efficient spinner, Government arranging for the supply of wooden and iron parts for Charkas at cost price and also for the supply of cotton at cost price. The yarn spun in each village should, as far as possible, be woven into cloth by weavers residing therein, every endeavour being made to increase the weaving capacity of the village.

(b) The Spinners are to be encouraged to get the yarn spun by them woven into cloth for the consumption of the family, an inducement being given to them by Government in the shape of a small subsidy at a flat rate of 4 annas per yard, to cover a portion of their weaving charges.

(c) All surplus yarn not utilisef for the spinners' families is to be purchased by Government, got woven into cloth and made available to persons residing in the centre at a price representing the cost of production plus 3 1/8% thereon representing overhead charges

(d) Arrangements are to be made by Government for giving in - structions to spinners and weavers who require such instruction.

(e) As Government were aware that a good deal of propaganda would be necessary to inclucate the habit of self-reliance, as the idea of self-spinning is nothing else, they had made provision in the scheme for the constitution of Centre and Village Khadi Committees charged with the duty of doing house to house propaganda to create enthusiasm and necessary atmosphere for the Khadi Scheme. These Committees are to consist of non-officials who are picked khadi enthusiasists.

Regular work commenced in the month of February 1947 in Taminlnad and Kerala centres and in April 1947 in Andhra centres. After working the scheme for a few months, it was felt that the presence of the uncertified Khadi dealsrs, (i.e. Private merchants

not recognised by the A.I.S.A) in the field would considerably hamper the impelementation of the Government's Khadi Scheme, as they tempted the spinners and took away the Khadi yarn spun by the people at high price. As the spinners were unable to resist the temptation of parting with their yarn to private merchants, Sri Jajuji, the representative of the A.I.S.A., who toured these centres in the month of July 1947 stressed the paramount need to eliminate the activities of the private Khadi merchants in the intensive centres. This proposal as well as the connected problems were discussed at a Conference presided over by the Hon'ble Premier held on 10th July 1947 held in the Premier's Chamber and the Government finally decided to eliminate the activities of all the private merchants doing business in the seven intensive centres, their respective 10 miles belt areas, and from the A.I.S.A. production centres of Tiruppur (Coimbatore District) and Managala (Guntur District). It was also decided that the supply of mill cloth in four out of the seven centres should be stopped and hand handlooms working on mill yarn as well as the handloom cloth shops should be reduced in all the sevel centres. It was also felt that the procedure for the grant of subsidy to self-spinners should be liberalised, in order to enable self-spinners who periodically deposit a portion of the yarn spun by them or by members of their with the Centre Khadi Officer and other spinners who are prepared to give at one and the same time all the yarn required for weaving the cloth, to get the concession instead of the grant of 4 annas per square yard only on the production of cloth, entailing as it did, the accumulation of yarn for weaving 10 yards of cloth. The Government have ordered in September 1947 that subsidy at the rate of nine pies per hand of self-spun yarn deposisted with the Centre Khadi Officer, be paid. (This works out to 0-3-9 per square yard). Thus there is no additional financial incidence in this revised procedure.

Upto 31st December 1947, 35 sub-centres have been opened as against 49 intended in the scheme to be opened by the end of 1947-48.

A brief review of the work done in the centres from the inception of the scheme upto 31st December 1947 may be given under the hea following heads:

(i) Supply of Charkas.

As already pointed out, planting of at least one charka in every family is almost the first item in the scheme. With that end in view Government had laid down that the charkas and other accessories should be supplied to the families residing in the centres at cost price, but in the case of Harijans and other persons as to whose poverty the Village Committees satisfy the Centre Khadi Officer, the price should be recovered in not more than twelve monthly instalments. The actual expenditure incurred upto 31st December 1947 on the purchase of charkas and other implements comes to Rs. 29,192/7/11 and the total receipts by their sale to the people in the centres comes to Rs. 7,280/3/. The charkas supplied by the Government conform to the Wardha Model (Vertical charka with speed wheel arrangements). As the spinners in the centres have long been accustomed to country model without speed wheel or the Kisan pattern, it is stated that propaganda will have to be done to induce people to take to Wardha model, which is said to secure greatest efficiency in spinning. This accounts for the rather slow distribution of charkas.

(ii) Distribution of Cotton.

A quantity of 2,82,181 lbs. of cotton was purchased during the year at a cost of Rs. 1,82,296. for distribution to the spinners in the seven centres, out of which a quantity of 1,44,158 lbs. was sold, the receipts being Rs. 1,08,730. The stock on hand at the current issue rates is estimated at Rs. 1,06,500. Government are therefore not likely to incur any loss in this transaction. The distribution of cotton in Vellakoil, Kotauratla and Payyanur has been satisfactory. Erragondapalem, however, produces its own cotton and consequently the spinners there do not come upto the Government for the supply of cotton. In the other three centres, namely, Guravareddipalem, Pullankuruchi and Avanashi, the distribution of cotton is said to be below expections.

(iii) Yarn - Purchase and issue.

2,23,246 lbs. of yarn valued at Rs. 5,51,981 was purchased rom spinners out of which a quantity of 1,78,639 lbs. was issued o the weavers for being got woven into cloth. In Payyanur an verage of 2.2 lbs. of yarn output per month for each charka has een achieved while in the other centres except Puliankurichi and uravareddipalem, the average output stands at 1.2 lbs.

In Vellakoil and Avenashi a number of charkas are said to e lying idle due to the elimination of uncertified khadi merchants nder whom they were hitherto working and steps will be taken to ring them to the Government's Khadi Scheme.

(iv) Khadi Production.

The quantity of cloth produced in all the centres was ,38,881 yards out of which a quantity of 1,71,920 yards was ot woven by self-spinners. Out of the remaining quantity of ,66,961 yards; 2,64,090 yards were disposed of, the value ealised being Rs. 3,90,771

(v) Subsidy.

The subsidy paid to self-spinners in respect of the cloth ot woven by them amounted to Rs. 41,198 upto 31st December 1947. The major portion of subsidy paid (Rs. 28,080) was drawn by the self-spinners at Erragondapalem centre. It may be mentioned in this connection that the subsidy paid is the surest index of the progress of the scheme, as subsidy has been devised with a view to encourage self-spinning and is strictly related to the hanks of genuine khadi yarn produced by the self-spinner or the members of his family. In fact the subsidy paid to the self-spinners will go a long way in helping the spinners to pay a portion of the weaving wages to the weaver. Thus it has the double advantage of giving a fillip to self-spinners and of helping the weavers to get weaving wages indirectly from the Government. In this setting the expenditure shown in the book under this item can never be considered as a loss to the Government.

(vi) Training.

As it was felt that the Khadi Scheme should be implemented with the help of trained personnel only Government as a vittal part of this Scheme made arrangements through A.I.S.A. at Government cost for the training of workers in 3 special courses, namely the Accelerated Course for 3 months in Spinning; Khadi Praveshika Course (1 years course for khadi craft and science; Bunayi Karya Kartha Course (one year course in weaving). Ten institutions for imparting training in the first mentioned course and 2 in the second and 2 another in the third were programmed to be opened in different places in the Province. As the Scheme has not gained as much momentum as was originally hoped, the scope for absorbing the trained personnel turned out of the schools started for accelerated course in spinning for 3 months has somewhat become restricted. Consequently it has been decided to close all these schools for the present. 490 male candidates and 181 lady candidates have so far been trained in this special course. In Khadi Praveshika Course 18 candidates have been trained. The Provincial Textile Commissioner has pointed out that persons trained in this course will be absorbed in the Intensive as well as Extensive Khadi areas. Only 5 candidates, all from Andhra districts, have been trained in Bunayi Karya Kartha course. Apart from these 3 special courses, spinning classes have also been conducted in Payyanur while instructions for self-suppers carding and tunai are being given in Erragondapalem and Kotauratla. A sum of Rs.72,723 has been so far spent on training courses and in the light of the general opinion that money spent on education, general or technical is money spent on the well being of the future citizens of the country, this item also should be appropriately considered as money spent for the spread of technical education namely, handspinning.

(vii) Financial Results.

After taking into account the value of stocks, the net expenditure on the scheme comes to Rs. 1,90,000 out of which Rs. 1,20,000 is incurred on training courses, exhibition, publicity and subsidy, only Rs. 70,000 having been spent on establishment and contingencies. The scheme was no doubt expected almost to pay its way - the expenditure on subsidy and on training courses alone, being the ultimate charge on the Government- but as the scheme has not taken the strides it was expected to, owing to the non-elimination of private khadi dealers from the Intensive Centres and their belt areas and also lack of adequate propaganda among the public, the net expenditure stands at Rs. 1,90,000 and not at Rs. 1,13,198 (72,000 and 41,198 spent on training courses and subsidy respectively), as was originally anticipated.

GENERAL.

Since the Government had drawn their scheme in G.O. (Ms) No. 4678 Dev. dated 23rd December 1946, Government have issued the Madras Khadi (Control) Order 1947 in March 1947, with a view to regulate the production and sale of Khadi in the Province on sound lines. In order to bring about the proper atomosphere for the working of their Intensive Scheme they decided after a careful examination of the pros and cons in consultation with A.I.S.A in September 1947 to eliminate the activities of private dealers in Khadi in the seven centres, and their respective belt areas of 10 miles, the production centres of Tirupur and Kangala. As already pointed out they also issued orders to bring about the stoppage of distribution of mill cloth in four out of the seven centres and gradual reduction of handlooms working on mill yarn in all the seven centres. They have also liberalised the procedure for the grant of subsidy to self-spinners as already pointed out at "A" on p. 12-15 ante. Government however had a delicate task in implementing their order regarding elimination of private dealers. For well over twnety years many private dealers have been working in the Khadi field on their own lines. Although the exphasis came to be shifted from commercial khadi to self-sufficiency Khadi as a result of the new orientation given by the A.I.S.A. under the leadership of Gandhiji in 1944, the private merchants still continued to be in the field producing a lot of khadi for commerical purposes. Government had had to reconcile the conflict of interests and they allowed 3 months time from September 1947 to wind up their business in the intensive centre etc. Government, however, were not prepared to allow them to expect the accumulated Khadi stocks outside the Province for sale. As the dealers had to find a ready market for their entire stocks at one and the same time locally, it was brought to the notice of the Government the hardships entailed on them and with a view to enlist their active co-operation to quite the field, Government extended the time for winding up their business of the private delaers upto 13th February 1948. As the elimination of the activities of the private dealers has been repeatedly stressed by Sri Jajuji of A.I.S.A as the "sine qua non" for the success of the Khadi Scheme, it will be seen from the facts stated above that the condition precedent will begin to prevail only hereafter. It is therefore seen that any attempt to evaluate the success of the scheme at present will be rather premature. As Government decided their policy only in September 1947, the Provincial Textile Commissioner could take up the administration of the Khadi Control Order on effective lines only in the closing months of 1947.

At the time of formulation of the scheme, the then Provincial Textile Commissioner (Sri Venkateswaran) laid very great stress on the need for propaganda in the intensive centres. This part of the scheme could hardly be said to have even commenced ~~although~~ although Committees have been formed. The Provincial Textile Commissioner points out that people have got to be weaned from a purely profit motive to one of self-reliance especially for basic needs like clothing. Now that the Government of India have lifted control over textiles, the Provincial Textile Commissioner is bereft of powers to implement the orders of the Government to stop the supply of mill cloth, etc., in the Intensive centres, and he has suggested (in another connection) that it will be very unwise to embark upon any

special legislation for this purpose. Government will therefore have to depend more than ever on propaganda for its success.

It may, however, be mentioned that after the Government took over the centres from the A.I.S.A. the development of Khadi has progressed satisfactorily, when compared to the output of Khadi in the previous year.

As regards the Extensive Khadi Scheme, no precise plan has yet been formulated. The Provincial Textile Commissioner was till recently in charge of this part of the Scheme also. But it has been recently ordered that extensive part of the scheme should be hereafter administered by the Provincial Firka Development Officer. A scheme for the development of Khadi in the 27 firkas selected for Rural Reconstruction Scheme, is being formulated.

xx/7.3.

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